

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed foreign application(s).

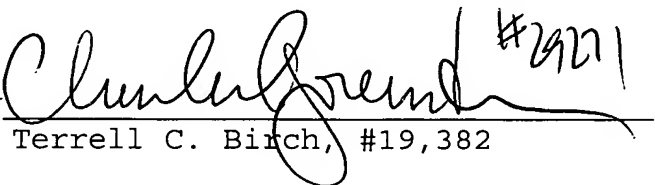
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Terrell C. Birch (Reg. No. 19,382) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #2921
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

TCB/enm
1247-0526P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000